Charlotte Mason's House of Education,
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

DEAR EDITOR,—I frequently see reading aloud advocated as an interesting and pleasant amusement, and I fully endorse the suggestion, but when boys are the audience, what is to be their occupation? Girls can sew or knit, but boys' occupations are usually more or less noisy, and yet they cannot sit idle.

A. MOTHER.

DEAR EDITOR,—With your permission I should like to remind members of the P.N.E.U. and readers of the *Parents' Review* that subscriptions for the current year are due, and to ask those who have not paid to send them to our Sec., Miss Ethel Forsyth, 28, Victoria Street, S.W. I would also ask all our friends to make a special effort to increase the circulation of the Review and to support the Committee in their endeavours to extend the work of the Society.

I desire to thank those friends who have kindly supplied copies of the P.R., for May, 1892, in response to my request. I have now enough of this issue for the present, and am now wanting April, 1892, and January, 1893.

HENRY PERRIN,
Hon. Org. Sec.

OUR WORK.

House of Education.—There are now twenty-two students in residence. Those who left at Christmas are all happily settled. One pleasing feature of the work, is the number of teachers who leave pupils of sixteen and seventeen to work for twelve months on the lines laid down in Home Education.

Parents' Review.—Contributions (always welcome) should reach the Editor by the first of the month. They may be addressed either to Miss Forsyth, P.N.E.U. Office, 28, Victoria Street, Westminster, or to the Secretary, House of Education, Ambleside.

House of Education Natural History Club.—Notes by M. S. Hodgson.

In Ambleside our calendar for February 1st, 1894, is as follows:—

WILD FLOWERS.—Golden saxifrage, rue-leaved saxifrage, gorse, celandine, barren strawberry, willow, dandelion, groundsel, chickweed, mercury, red nettle, primroses, holly, box, hazel, willows, black-poplar.

GARDEN FLOWERS.—Snowdrops, crocuses, jessamine, Christmas roses, wall-flower, daffodil, aconites, hipatica, squills, pyrus japonica, berberis, mezereum, pho-do-dendron, snow-on-the-mountains, forget-me-not, daisies, and a few others.

Oaks, beeches, Wych elms, and trees generally have altered considerably during the last fortnight, most of them are opening their buds: many bushes are showing tips of green along the roadsides, while arums, Welsh poppies, adoxa, etc., are making beautiful green patches under the walls and hedges. We have also seen a few hairy caterpillars, a tortoise-shell butterfly, a hedge snail (*Helix nemoralis*) and a few bees. Jackdaws, rooks, and starlings paired. Will the members of our club, who care to do so, kindly send us their lists for February 1st either from England or abroad, as the case may be. We should all like to compare our lists both for February and March.

The following notes are addressed to those students who are at present living near the sea. It will not be possible for me even to attempt to describe the treasures you are certain to find. I can only help you by showing you a little how to help yourselves. First of all I strongly advise you to make firm friends with the fishermen if you wish to know something about the ways and appearance of the inhabitants of the sea. When you notice the boats coming in, lose no time, but as quickly as you can run down and see what has been caught.

If you examine the refuse from the shrimp nets, you will find enough to occupy you for some time; it is usually full of strange looking objects; sea-mice or tiny cuttle-fish will certainly strike you as being very quaint creatures indeed. In this way I have seen many kinds of crabs and crustaceans, numbers of shell-fish, all sorts of fishes and many kinds of

sea-weed. As soon as the fishermen see that you are really and truly interested in what they bring in, they will often save things for you that would otherwise be thrown overboard when washing their nets before coming on shore. The delightful part of being near the sea is that at every tide you may expect to find something fresh, only a shell perhaps, or a bit of sea-weed, a stone or a fossil. Whatever it is, let it interest both yourself and the children; make out its name, and, if worth keeping, label it, and keep it neatly and safely for use in giving your "Object Lessons." It will take you many months before you exhaust your little stretch of coast; you will soon learn to distinguish the commonest things in your neighbourhood from those that you see less frequently; keep two lists in your note-book, one for the common and the other for the rare specimens you get; note down carefully the place and date of each find, and as much as possible watch the things where they live; don't tear anemonies off the rocks or keep live things in basins, you will understand quite enough about them without doing this. For giving a lesson you will find heaps of things that can be carried home without injury, exhaust this supply first.

For information about this subject you will find *The Seashore*, 2*s*. 6*d*., S.P.C.R., very useful; also *Common Shells of the Seashore*, 1*s*., Frederick Warne and Co. *Crustacea and Spiders*, 1*s*., Swan Sonnenschein, Lowrey and Co., is a very useful book indeed if you wish to know something about crabs. I strongly advise you to take in *Science Gossip*, 5*s*. a year post free, John T. Carrington, 1, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C. The new series promises to be very good.

A melancholy interest will be ever attached to Mrs. Powell's book, "These Little Ones," reviewed last month. We are grieved to hear that Mrs. Powell passed away a few days before the notice appeared. Mrs. Powell has been a warm supporter of the *Parents' Review* for four or five years, and we regret deeply that such a gifted writer should have been taken away from the good work she was doing here.

Free Lectures to members of the Union and their friends will be given in April and May on "*The Ethics of Beauty*" by Miss Alice Taylor, and "*The Rational Teaching of the Pianoforte*" by Mrs. Spencer Curwen. Courses of Lectures will also be held (for which special fees will be charged at a low rate) on "*Ibsen and Wagner*," "*Physiology*," "*The principles of modern education applied to the Art of Painting*," and, possibly a course of Training Lessons by Mrs. Walter Ward in *Kindergarten methods*. Early application for tickets to be made to the Secretary, P.N.E.U. Office, 28, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

P.N.E.U. NOTES.

Chairman of Committee: Dr. A. T. Schofield. *Vice-Chairman:* Algernon Coote, Esq., M.A. *Treasurer:* Editor *Parents' Review*, Miss C. M. Mason, House of Education, Ambleside. *Hon. Org. Sec.:* H. Perrin, Esq. *Secretary:* Miss Ethel Forsyth, 28, Victoria Street, Westminster. The objects of the Society are, briefly, to assist parents of all classes to understand the best principles and methods of education in all its aspects, and especially in those which concern the formation of habits and character, and to afford to parents opportunities for co-operation and consultation, so that the wisdom and experience of each may be profitable for all. Pamphlets giving full particulars of the work of the Union, and the *Parents' Review* (6*d*. monthly), the organ of the Society, may be obtained from the Secretary, to whom all subscriptions and communications should be sent.

The most important event of the past month has been the establishment of a Central Office in London, in a convenient situation, where our Secretary, Miss Ethel Forsyth, can be consulted daily on the work of the Union and on the best methods of extending and strengthening its operations. Miss Forsyth's long experience in practical education renders her particularly qualified to undertake this, and it is hoped that the work of the Society, which has now outgrown the possibilities of voluntary services, will be much more efficiently performed, and that it will become of increasing usefulness to parents and teachers in their responsible positions. It only remains for all sympathizers with the aims of the P.N.E.U., to give the Committee the assistance of their moral and financial support, to enable them to meet the increased obligations which this step entails.

BELGRAVIA BRANCH.—*Hon Sec.:* Lady Isabel Margesson, 28, Victoria Street, S.W.

SHEFFIELD BRANCH.—*Hon. Secs.:* Mrs. Newton Coombe, Brocco Bank, and Miss Walmsley, The High School.

WOODFORD AND WANSTEAD BRANCH.—*Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Spedding Curwen, Bywell, South Woodford. A meeting was held at the house of Arnold Hills, Esq., Monkhams, on February 27th, when a very able Paper was read by J. Russell, Esq., to a large meeting, the subject being "Pestalozzi's Message to Parents." A good deal of interest was shown, several new members joined. The Secretary made a statement calling attention to the *Parents' Review*, the P.R. School and the Natural History Club. The balance-sheet shewed a loss on the year, but it is believed that will improve. A Class meets every week for "Brush-work," when all much enjoy Mr. Cooke's teaching.

READING BRANCH.—*Hon Sec.:* W. Salmon, Esq., 56, London Street. The next Meeting will be held in May, when S. G. Tremenheere, Esq., H.M. Inspector of Schools will give an address. The Lending Library is well patronised by Members and there is no doubt it is a source of usefulness.